

7 April 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, CIA Career Service Board

FROM: Acting General Counsel


SUBJECT: Establishment of Criteria for Ten Year Commendatory Letter re Service in the Field of Intelligence

REFERENCE: CSB Memorandum of 19 March 1953 to General Counsel

1. In reply to the request contained in Paragraph 3 of the reference memorandum the records of this office disclose the information set forth hereafter in Paragraph 2.

2. COI was established by Executive Order of the President on 11 July 1941 and on 13 June 1942 by Military Order of the President as Commander in Chief it became OSS, with the exception of the foreign information activities which were transferred to OWI on the same date. OWI remained separate and went out of existence in 1945. By Executive Order of 12 September 1945 the Research and Analysis Branch and the Presentation Branch of OSS were transferred to the Department of State, effective 1 October 1945. The remaining functions of OSS including personnel, property, records and funds were transferred to the War Department by Executive Order of 20 September 1945 and the functions of the Director and of the Joint Chiefs relating to the Director's functions were transferred to the Secretary of War. On 27 September 1945 Secretary Patterson created SSU, appointed a Director and authorized him to preserve the functions and facilities needed for permanent peacetime purposes under the Assistant Secretary of War, who made SSU almost autonomous. CIG was created by the President by letter of 22 January 1946 which was jointly directed to the Secretaries of State, War and Navy. CIG was placed under the NIA. The FBID function of conducting monitoring of press and foreign propaganda broadcasts of foreign powers for the collection of intelligence information related to the national security was transferred from G-2 of the Army to DCI by NIA Directive No. 5 of 8 July 1946. On 3 April 1946 the Acting Secretary of War directed the liquidation of SSU which ceased to function as an operating entity effective 19 October 1946. The Army-Navy Washington Documents Center, formed in 1945 from part of G-2 and part of ONI was transferred to CIG as a unit on 1 December 1946. The National Security Act of 1947 established the CIA in September of that year and there was transferred to it the personnel, property and records of CIG.

3. The foregoing comprises the information contained in our files. Contact was had with the Historian of CIA who advised that he has all the foregoing information and somewhat more, and that his information is being submitted to the Career Service Board in what is believed to be a comprehensive report, pursuant to a request similar to that contained in the reference memorandum. In view of this, it is not deemed necessary to repeat and include herein the information being submitted by the Historian.


Acting General Counsel

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OGC/OEP:cst

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